

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output apparatus for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a controller through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising:

a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses are connected, each of said apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal;

signal discrimination changeover means for discriminating the type of the control signal entered through the transmission path, generating a discrimination signal, supplying said discrimination signal into said controller, and changing over the control of said signal processor to said controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, wherein

input and output of plural control signals of different types are processed through a said single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.

2. (Currently Amended) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the plural control signals ~~are individually different in~~ each have different input and output levels.

3. (Currently Amended) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1,  
wherein

discrimination of the type of the control signals in said signal discrimination  
changeover means is carried out on the basis of the a level of the control signal at a coupling to  
said signal discrimination changeover means of the transmission path for an input and output of  
control signals.

4. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
said signal discrimination changeover means changes over the control system of  
the control signal of a type other than the one discriminated according to the discrimination  
signal so as to be inactive.

5. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein:  
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.

6. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output method, being a signal input  
and output method for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by a  
controller through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said controller on  
the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising the steps of:

providing a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of  
apparatuses are connected, each of said apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal,

a signal discriminating step of discriminating the type of the control signal entered  
through the single transmission path by signal discriminating means,

~~a supplying step of supplying a discrimination signal generated by said signal discriminating means in accordance with said discriminated type of control signal into said controller, and~~

~~a changeover step of changing over the control of said signal processor to said controller on the basis of the discrimination signal, wherein: and~~

~~input and output inputting and outputting of plural control signals of different types and processing these control signals are processed through a the single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein: the plural control signals ~~are individually different in~~ each have different in input and output levels.

8. (Currently Amended) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein: discrimination of the type of ~~the~~ control signals at said signal discrimination step is carried out on the basis of ~~the~~ a level of the control signal at a coupling to said signal discriminating means of the transmission path for input and output of control signals.

9. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim 6, further comprising: a step of changing over the control system of the control signal of other type than the one discriminated according to the discrimination signal so as to be inactive.

10. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim 6, wherein:  
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.

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